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September 12, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: *U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/781,150*
Filed: February 13, 2001 (Div. of 09/467,384)
For: System for Withdrawing and Dewatering
Slag from a Gasification Equipment
Inventors: John D. Winter, et al.
Attorney Docket No. 06950.0167.DVUS01

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Sir:

The following documents are forwarded for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. Form PTO-1449 and References
3. PTOreturned receipt postcard

It is believed that no fees are required for filing this document. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fee, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned, and any fees therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)

Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

John D. WINTER, et al.

Appl. No. 09/781,150

Filed: February 13, 2001

For: **System For Withdrawing and
Dewatering Slag from a
Gasification Equipment**

Art Unit: 3651

Examiner: To be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 06950.0167.DVUS01

Confirmation No.: 9106

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that

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had been cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee is required.
- 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
 - a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
 - c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ 180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. It is hereby requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i).

- a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.

5. The documents were cited in a corresponding foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.

6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:

7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.

8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

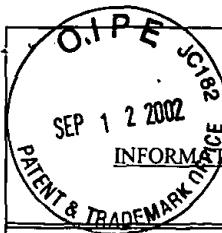
The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038 referencing docket number *06950.0167.DVUS01*.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)

Date: September 12, 2002

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FORM PTO-1449
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO. 06950.0167.DVUS01 APPLICATION NO. 09/781,150

APPLICANT: WINTER, et al.

FILING DATE: February 13, 2001

GROUP: 3651

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	REF. NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	GRANT DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	2,237,428	04/1941	Hanna	198	669	
	AB1	2,443,942	06/1948	Winkler et al.	198	676	
	AC1	2,558,006	06/1951	Shriver, et al.	198	672	
	AD1	3,253,892	05/1966	Brignac, et al.	198	676	
	AE1	3,602,552	08/1971	Morgan	198	672	
	AF1	3,729,105	04/1973	Huebler, et al.	414	218	
	AG1	4,401,402	08/1983	Casperson	414	218	
	AH1						
	AJ1						
	AK1						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	REF. NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	32 41 239 A1	06/1994	Germany			Yes
	AM1	084 1268	05/1998	Europe			Yes
	AN1	0098340	01/1884	Europe			No
	AO1	0109210	05/1984	Europe			Yes
	AP1						

EXAMINER INITIALS	REF. NO.	OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)
	AS 1	

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AT 1		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.